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LETTER DATED 17 DECEMBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On behalf of the United States Government and pursuant to paragraph 18 of Security Council resolution 794 (1992), I have the honour to submit a report on the activities of the Unified Task Force directed towards the implementation of that resolution.

I request that this letter, together with the enclosed report, be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Edward J. PERKINS

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Annex

Report by the United States pursuant to Security Council resolution 794 (1992)

In response to Security Council resolution 794 (1992), the President directed the execution of Operation Restore Hope on 4 December 1992. The United States central command (USCENTCOM) was given the mission of conducting joint and combined military operations in Somalia, under United Nations auspices, to secure major airports and seaports, key installations and food distribution points, to provide open and free passage of relief supplies, provide security for convoys and relief organizations and to assist United Nations and non-governmental organizations in providing humanitarian relief.

The Commander-in-Chief, USCENTCOM, developed a four-phased concept of operations which focuses on the area of greatest need and suffering. Phase I consists of securing the airfield and seaport at Mogadishu with United States marine amphibious forces and elements of the Unified Task Force (UNITAF), and expanding the operation to Baledogle and Baidoa with follow-on United States Marine elements and initial United States Army elements. Phase II involves the deployment of a brigade of United States Army and UNITAF forces to secure Baidoa and expand the lodgement area to secure the relief centres of Oddur, Belet Weyne and Gialassi. In phase III, operations will be expanded to the south to secure the port and airfield at Kismayo, Bardera, and the land route from Bardera to Baidoa. Phase IV is the transfer of the responsibility for maintaining a secure environment for the delivery of humanitarian relief to United Nations peace-keeping forces. This transfer may occur concurrently with other phases as peace-keeping forces are available to assume responsibility for secured areas.

On 9 December, phase I began with the successful seizure of the airfield and port in Mogadishu by a United States Marine special-purpose air/ground task force supported by United States Navy elements. Follow-on forces, including initial UNITAF elements, have continued to expand the security zones in Mogadishu and improve the capabilities of the airfield and port facilities. On 13 December, United States Marine forces secured the airfield at Baledogle to support the deployment of United States Army forces. Initial elements of the Army's 10th Mountain Division closed into Baledogle. This was followed by the seizure of Baidoa on 16 December. United States forces will build to approximately 28,000 personnel, augmented with UNITAF forces from the 20 countries that have committed to provide over 17,000 personnel to date.

The operation is proceeding generally as planned and is primarily driven by the ability of the Somalia port and airfield infrastructure to support the deployment of UNITAF forces. The rapid and extensive response of United Nations Member nations to the resolution, the recent cease-fire agreement between two major factions and the lessening of violence in Mogadishu are positive indications that operations will continue successfully.

The best measure of effectiveness is the impact our security operations have had on relief efforts. Preliminary indications from relief organizations on the ground in areas where we have operated suggest that our efforts have been very successful. The seaport in Mogadishu is now open and relief supplies are moving throughout the city.